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importance in the origin of species than Darwinians as such seem willing to admit.

The errors of detail in the chapters we have read seem very few, and the wonder is that there should not be more. We notice that *Phrynosomæ*, or horned toads, are stated on one page to exist in New York and on another in Florida. We are not aware that the genus occurs east of the Mississippi River. *Siredon* is referred to the family *Proteidæ*, when it has been shown by Dumeril and Marsh to be simply a larval *Amblystoma*. An attractive feature of the work are the twenty full-page illustrations, showing the chief forms of land vertebrates characterizing the subregions. They are drawn with skill and evident fidelity, though the skunk on Plate XX. is not well sketched. Through the courtesy of the American publishers our readers can judge of the excellence of the plates by a glance at the two accompanying illustrations (Figs. 28 and 29). The colored hypsometrical maps add greatly to the value of the work. In that of North America the author colors yellow supposed desert tracts east of the Rocky Mountains, which farmers in Wyoming and Colorado would consider as reflecting on their possessions, and over which herds of buffalo a few years ago must have grazed with satisfaction.

In conclusion it may be said that while our author has shown that life has probably originated in northern lands, the question still remains to be answered, and the problem will probably not be solved for generations. What caused the radical differences in the life of the several continents? The united efforts of future palæontologists and biologists will be concentrated on this task, and centuries hence, if we mistake not, Alfred R. Wallace will be regarded as the pioneer in the work.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. — The Naturalist's Guide in collecting and preserving Objects of Natural History, with a Complete Catalogue of the Birds of Eastern Massachusetts. By C. J. Maynard. With Illustrations by E. L. Weeks. Salem: The Naturalists' Agency. 1877. 12mo, pp. 170. $2.00.

The Naturalist's Directory, containing the Names of Naturalists, Chemists, Physicists, and Meteorologists, arranged alphabetically, with an Index arranged according to Departments. By Samuel E. Cassino. Salem, Mass: The Naturalists' Agency. 1877. 8vo, pp. 20. Interleaved.

Materials towards a Knowledge of the Postembryonal Development of Insects. By Prof. M. Ganin. Warsaw. 1876. 4to, with plates.

Biologische Studien. Von Prof. Ernst Haeckel. Zweites Heft: Studien zur Gastræa-Theorie. Mit 14 tafeln. Jena. 1877. 8vo, pp. 99.

Beitrage zur Naturgeschichte der Daphnoiden. Von Prof. August Weismann. Parts II.-IV. Leipzig. 1877. 8vo, pp. 161.

On the Structure and Relations of the Alcyonarian *Heliopora cœrulea*, with some Account of the Anatomy of a Species of Sarcophyton, Notes on the Structure of Species of the Genera Millepora, Pocillopora, and Stylaster, and Remarks on the Affinities of Certain Palæozoic Corals. By H. N. Mosely. (From the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society.) London. 1876. 4to, pp. 38.

Proceedings and Transactions of the Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science of Halifax, Nova Scotia. IV. part 2. 1875–76. 8vo.

The Valorous Expedition. Reports by Dr. Gwyn Jeffreys and Dr. Carpenter. (From the Proceedings of the Royal Society, Vol. xxv. No. 173.) With chart and Sections. London. 1876. 8vo, pp. 60.

Check List of the Fishes of the Fresh Waters of North America. By David S. Jordan and Herbert E. Copeland. (From the Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences.) 1877. 8vo, pp. 31.

The Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Zoölogical Society of Philadelphia. 1876. 8vo, pp. 38.

Catalogue of the publications of the U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. F. V. Hayden, Geologist-in-Charge. Second Edition. (Revised to December 31, 1876.) Washington, D. C. 1877. 8vo, pp. 38.

Remarks on some Algæ found on the Water Supplies of the City of Boston. By W. G. Farlow. (Extracted from the Bulletin of the Bussey Institution. January, 1877.) 8vo, pp. 80.

Geological Survey of New Jersey. Annual Report of the State Geologist, for the year 1876. Trenton, New Jersey. 1876. 8vo, pp. 56.

New York Aquarium Journal and Guide. Illustrated. New York.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

### BOTANY.[1]

On the Passage of Plasma through Living Unperforated Membranes, by M. Cornu. — The transfer of elaborated matters in cells presents many difficulties; in many cases osmosis alone is an inadequate explanation; it has been thought necessary to assume solution and recomposition of the substance, as in the case of starch. That the transfer of starch takes place in this way has been apparently admitted as the result of Mer's researches. Does plasma pass in the same way through the cell wall, having become first dissolved? Cornu thinks that it is transferred without solution, and bases his conclusion on his study of the germination of the spores of one of the Mucedineæ. In this case the plasma passes directly through the wall without rupturing it. The details of this most interesting observation are given in *Comptes Rendus*, January 15, 1877.

Phellodendron. — The list of exotic trees capable of withstanding the severities of the New England climate is not a long one, and any addition to it is a cause for congratulation, especially when, as in the case of *Phellodendron Amurense*,[2] the new-comer is extremely ornamental, and of rapid growth. Two plants of this *Phellodendron*, raised from seed in the Harvard Botanic Garden many years ago, are now some fifteen feet high, and have flowered the past summer for the first time; and as they have been fully exposed during ten or fifteen years, their hardiness in our climate would seem to be beyond doubt. The flowers of *Phellodendron* are diœcious, but by a piece of remarkable good fortune the two plants bore flowers of the two sexes, and an

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[1] Conducted by Prof. G. L. Goodale.

[2] Rupurt and Maxim., Fl. Amus. t. 4.